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REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims in order to further clarify the definition of various aspects of the present invention. Specifically, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claim 2 into claim 1. In light thereof, Applicants have canceled claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer, and have amended dependency of claim 3.

Applicants are adding new claims 4-12 to the application. The subject matter expressly set forth in claims 4-12 corresponds respectively to subject matter expressly set forth in claims 3-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,632,744.

The rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,632,744, set forth in Item 3 on page 2 of the Office Action mailed December 27, 2004, is moot, in light of incorporation of subject matter of claim 2 into claim 1.

The obviousness-type double patenting rejection over claims 1 and 12 of U.S. Patent 6,632,744, set forth in Item 5 on page 3 of the Office Action mailed December 27, 2004, is noted. For overcoming this obviousness-type double patenting rejection, submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer in the above-identified application in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.321(c). In view of this Terminal Disclaimer, the obviousness-type double patenting rejection is moot.

The enclosed Terminal Disclaimer is being submitted so as to facilitate proceedings in connection with the above-identified application, in order to achieve earliest possible issuance of a U.S. Patent based thereon. It is respectfully submitted that the filing of this Terminal Disclaimer does not constitute an admission as to the propriety of, or agreement with, the

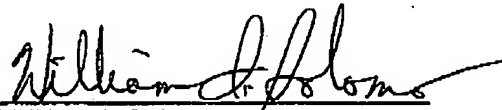
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obviousness-type double patenting rejection; and does not constitute an admission as to the propriety of, or agreement with, arguments made by the Examiner in connection with the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

In view of the foregoing, and in view of the present filing of the enclosed Terminal Disclaimer, reconsideration and allowance of all claims presently in the application are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case No. 843.40352CX1) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WIS/vvr

Attachments